1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Pondicherry*	–	–	–	8	13
21.	Punjab	6	12	17	19	12
22.	Rajasthan	1	4	4	4	3
23	Sikkim	6	14	12	3	5
24.	Tamil Nadu	3	1	1	1	4
25.	Tripura	15	14	19	14	16
26.	U.P.	5	7	2	1	6
27.	West Bengal	19	17	14	21	22

* Delhi and Pondichery are also ranked since 1995-96 onwards.

Acupuncture System

2370. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1305 dated March 3, 1997 regarding Acupuncture System and state :

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Following a large number of proposals for recognition of Acupuncture, Government have decided to set up a Committee of Experts to examine the issues relating to alternative therapies including Acupuncture.

(c) Does not arise.

Roster System of Reservation

2371. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether roster indicating reservation for SC/ST employees in various grades in his Ministry are not being maintained as per the guidelines issued by Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms;

(b) whether a large number of posts meant for SC/ ST employees have been denied to them.

(c) whether these Rosters have not been signed by Liaison Officers in his Ministry; and

(d) if so, the action Government propose to take against those officers who have not implemented the reservation policy in his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Rosters are being maintained as per the guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms.

(b) No Sir, the Ministry of External Affairs is following the relevant guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel subject to the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal's directive to this Ministry contained in decision on OA No. 405/96 on 5th June, 1996 for computing vacancies.

(c) The rosters are examined by the Liaison Officer from time to time but his signing them has not been insisted upon. However, as a further measure, the same will be ensured in future. The rosters are also accessible to any employee interested to see them.

(d) There is no question of not implementing the Government's policy on reservation. Any lapse will be suitably dealt with, as per the rules.

[Translation]

Population Control Measures

2372. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of population control and family planning measures taken at the world level and the role of India therein;

(b) the number of women who terminate pregnancy and the number of couples who use contraceptives in the country as per the survey conducted by the Council;

(c) the salient features of the present reproduction health programme package; and

(d) the reaction of the Government to the increasing foeticide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Since the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, several national Governments are reported to have made progress in implementing the Programme Action adopted at the said Conference. India has adopted the 'Reproductive and Child Health' approach to its Family Welfare Programme, in accordance with the Programme of Action.

(b) 5.66 lakh women are reported to have undergone medical termination of pregnancy in the year

1995-96. The Couple Protection Rate in the year 1996-97 was 45.4%.

(c) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, a Differential strategy has been adopted for various States and districts, in respect of reducing the mortality and modbidity among women and children. The Reproducting and Child Health Programme provides for a set of interventions common to the whole country, and additional services to selected States/districts. In addition, enhancement of local capacity through district or city specific projects has been provided for.

(d) While there continue to be general but non-specific statements expressing apprehension that female foeticide is quite common in the country, specific complaints or facts are not readily volunteered by individuals and agencies. The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuses) Act, 1994, which prohibits determination of the sex of the foetus, is in force from 1st January, 1996.

[English]

Labour Courts

2373. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open some new labour courts in Delhi for early disposal of pending cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken for early disposal of pending cases since 1982?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has set up one Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court (CGIT-cum-LC) in Delhi for adjudication of industrial disputes for which they are the appropriate Govt. under the Industrial Disputes Act. While there is no proposal at present under consideration for setting up more CGIT-cum-Labour Courts in Delhi, the number of industrial disputes and applications pending during 1982 to middle of 1997 was 754 and 415 respectively. In order to expedite disposals, long pending cases are being accorded priority and hearings are fixed after short intervals.

Computer Design Units

2374. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Computer Design Unit at Bhubaneswar in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said unit is likely to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) There is no such proposal with the Department of Electronics.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Reimbursement of Medical Bills

2375. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government not to foot `pensioners' private medical bills" appearing in the `Indian Express' dated May 25, 1997;

(b) if so, the rationale behind discriminating the pensioners in not footing their private medical bills, and

(c) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) There is no discrimination against the pensioners. According to the prescribed procedure for referral to privats hospitals/diagnastic centres recognised under CGHS, afters the initial advice of a CGHS Specialist, a "Permission Letter" for such treatment is given by the CMO incharge of the concerned dispensary. In case of a medical emergency, the CMO Incharge of the concerned CGHS dispensary may directly (i.e. even before Specialist's advice has been obtained) refer the CGHS pensioner to a private recognised hospital for further management/treatment after recording the details thereof. The expenditure to be reimbursed is restricted to the package deal rates/rates approved by the Government from time to time.

[Translation]

Areas Held by Myanmar

2376. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Myanmar has constructed a road